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DEVOTIONS

TO THE

INFANT JESUS,

AS PRACTISED IN THE

ORATORY, KING WILLIAM STREET,
STRAND.

LONDON :

JAMES BURNS, 17, PORTMAN STREET.

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PREFACE.

THE following Devotions are translated from the Italian, published at Naples in 1846. The Chaplet of the Twelve Mysteries of the Sacred Infancy, to which the Indulgences are attached, is also in the Raccolta, published in Rome in 1844.



THE MYSTERIES, OR STEPS

OF THE

SACRED INFANCY.

To be used on the 25th Day of every Month, and during the Novena and Octave of Christmas, and at any other time during the Year.

INDULGENCES.

Pius VII., by a Decree from the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences, November 23, 1819, granted a Plenary Indulgence on the 25th day of every month to those who, being truly contrite and having confessed and communicated, should recite in any Church or public Oratory, where the Exercise in honour of the Infant Jesus is practised, the following Prayers, venerating at the same time the twelve Mysteries of the Sacred Infancy, and praying for the intention of his Holiness.

And 300 days, once a day, for reciting the same in private.

Both applicable to the Souls in Purgatory.

(Raccolta delle Indulgenze, p. 51.)

V. Incline unto my aid, O God.

R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Our Father, &c.

I.—THE INCARNATION.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, who for our salvation didst descend from the bosom of the Eternal Father into the womb of the Virgin Mary, where, conceived by the Holy Ghost, Thou didst take upon Thee, O Incarnate Word, the form of a servant. Have mercy upon us.

V. Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

II.—THE VISITATION.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, who, by means of Thy Virgin Mother, didst visit St. Elizabeth, and filling Thy Forerunner, St. John Baptist, with the Holy Spirit, didst sanctify him from his mother's womb. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

III.—THE EXPECTATION OF THE BIRTH.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, who, for nine months enclosed in the womb, didst wait for the time of Thy birth, and didst meantime inflame the heart of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph with most ardent longings, and didst offer Thyself to God the Father for the salvation of the world. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

IV.—THE HOLY NATIVITY.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, wrapped in poor swaddling clothes, laid in the manger, glorified by Angels, and visited by Shepherds. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

O Jesu ! born of Virgin bright,

Immortal glory be to Thee ;

Praise to the Father infinite,

And Holy Ghost eternally.

V. Christ is at hand.

R. O come, let us worship Him.

Our Father, &c.

V.—THE CIRCUMCISION.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, circumcised when eight days old, and called by the glorious name of Jesus, and proclaimed, both by Thy Name and by Thy Blood, to be the Saviour of the world. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

VI.—THE ADORATION OF THE KINGS.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, who wert manifested to the Three Kings, who worshipped Thee as Thou didst lie on Mary's breast, and offered to Thee the mysterious presents of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

VII.—THE PRESENTATION.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, presented in the Temple by the Virgin Mary, embraced by the holy old man Simeon, and revealed to the Jews by Anna the Prophetess. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

VIII.—THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, whom Herod sought to slay, carried by St. Joseph with Thy Mother into Egypt, saved from death by Flight, and glorified by the blood of the Holy Innocents. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

O Jesu ! born of Virgin bright,

Immortal glory be to Thee ;

Praise to the Father infinite,

And Holy Ghost eternally.

V. Christ is at hand.

R. O come, let us worship Him.

Our Father, &c.

IX.—THE SOJOURN IN EGYPT.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, who didst dwell as an exile in Egypt for seven years, where Thou utteredst Thy first words, and loosed from Thy swathing bands, didst first begin to walk upon this earth, and, in the destruction of the idols, didst work in a hidden manner Thy first miracles. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

X.—THE RETURN FROM EGYPT.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, who, when Herod was dead, wast recalled out of Egypt into the land of Israel, and didst in the journey suffer many fatigues and hardships, and wert carried back by Mary and Joseph to the city of Nazareth. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

XI.—THE LIFE IN THE HOLY HOUSE.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, who in the holy House of Nazareth didst dwell most holily, and didst pass Thy life in obedience, poverty, and toil, and as Thou increasedst in years didst manifest to God and men signs of wisdom and of grace. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

XII.—THE DISPUTING WITH THE DOCTORS.

O most sweet Infant Jesus, who wert taken to Jerusalem when twelve years old, wert lost by Thy Parents, and sought for by them with sorrow, and after three days wert found, to their exceeding joy, with the Doctors in the Temple. Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Hail Mary, &c.

O Jesu ! born of Virgin bright,
 Immortal glory be to Thee ;
 Praise to the Father infinite,
 And Holy Ghost eternally.

Our Father, &c.

During the Year.

V. The Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt amongst us.

At Christmas, and during the Octave, add, Alleluia.

At the Epiphany and during the Octave.

V. Christ hath manifested Himself unto us.
 Alleluia.

R. O come, let us worship Him. Alleluia.

LET US PRAY.

O Almighty and Everlasting God, Lord of Heaven and earth, who didst reveal Thyself to little ones, grant, we beseech Thee, that while we duly celebrate and honour the most holy Mysteries of Thy Son, the Infant Jesus, and worthily strive to imitate them, we may arrive at that Heavenly Kingdom which Thou hast

promised to little children ; Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

Say "Eternal rest give to them," &c., three times for the souls in Purgatory who were devout to the Infant Jesus.

And one Hail Mary for the intention of the promoter of this devotion.

PRAYERS

TO JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH, TO BE SAID ON
THE 25TH DAY OF EACH MONTH, AFTER THE
CHAPLET OF THE SACRED INFANCY.

ACT OF OFFERING

TO THE MOST HOLY INFANT, FOR THE 25TH OF
EACH MONTH.

O Most Holy Infant Jesus, I, though a most unworthy sinner, desiring nevertheless to honour Thy most adorable Infancy, which was the first state upon earth to which Thou didst subject Thyself for my salvation, choose Thee this day in the presence of Thy Blessed Virgin Mother Mary, and of St. Joseph, Thy most faithful Foster-Father, as my King and my Lord : and I firmly purpose to love and serve Thee always, and to honour Thee especially in this state in which Thou, O Word Eternal, Immense, and Infinite, wert born a little Babe for the love of me. Ah! be pleased, O most loving Babe, to

bleſs this my reſpectful offering, and give me the grace to depend henceforth wholly upon Thee, as Thou in all things didſt depend upon Thy Virgin Mother, and St. Joſeph, ſo that I may be fit to be a ſervant in Thy Holy Family on earth, and then be admitted to the citizenship with the Angels and Thy Saints in Heaven, and therefore do Thou bleſs me, ſave me, and help me. Amen.

Five times "Glory be, &c.," to the Heart of the Infant Jeſus.

ACT OF OFFERING

TO THE MOST HOLY MARY.

O Virgin and Mother, O Sacred Temple of the Divinity, O marvel of Heaven and earth, my great Mother Mary, it is but juſt that, whiſt Thou haſt brought forth for us an Infant God, we ſhould adore in Thee the moſt exalted dignity of the Mother of God, and ſhould conſecrate to ſo worthy a Mother all the homage of our whole being. I therefore offer myſelf and

give myself up wholly unto Thee this day, and desire with a resolute will to serve and love Thine Holy Child Jesus, my Saviour and my God. I know that in doing so I shall give Thee pleasure, and the homage which I pay to the Son, will be also an homage paid unto the Mother.

Accept, then, O most loving Mother, this my offering of love, which, that it may be still more acceptable to Thee, I present to Thee by the Hands of the Infant Jesus. Ah! by those swathing bands in which thou didst wrap Him in the manger, bind my will, so that I may never retract the offering which I have made of myself this day to Thee, and to thy Holy Infant ; place me under Thy most holy mantle, guard me, help me, and defend me to the last moment of my life. Amen.

Three Hail Maries to the Heart of the Most Holy Mary.

ACT OF OFFERING

TO THE PATRIARCH ST. JOSEPH.

Most glorious Patriarch, chastest spouse of the great Mother of God, and reputed Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, my loving St. Joseph, confiding in the greatness of thy holiness, and inflamed with the love which Jesus and Mary bore thee, I choose thee this day in their presence to be my especial Protector, Advocate, and Patron: and I firmly purpose to keep this devotion to thee always burning within my heart. And since I know that Thou wert appointed by the Eternal Father to be the Head of the Holy Family upon earth, I desire to be one of its devoted servants and friends, and I beg of thee to admit me into the number. I desire, unworthy sinner though I be, to render to thee also the homage which I pay to the Infant Jesus, and to His Virgin Mother. I beseech thee also, O my most glorious Father St. Joseph, to obtain for me, through thy great merits and by thy most powerful intercession,

the grace to imitate in my life thy most holy conversation with Jesus and Mary, so that I too, like thyself, may enjoy the assistance of Jesus and of Mary at my death, and in their arms may breathe forth my soul, saying, Jesus, Joseph and Mary, I give you my heart and my soul. **Amen.**

An Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory, to St. Joseph.

LET US PRAY.

O God, who by the Holy Family of the Incarnate Word hast consecrated the whole earth, and hast in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph given to us the pattern of holy living, grant that we, who by this Blessed Three implore of Thee the grace of holy living, may, together with the Angels, come to praise Thee in heaven, who livest in Thy blissful and undivided Trinity of Persons, world without end. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

**TO THE MOST HOLY INFANT JESUS, AND TO
ST. JOSEPH, TO OBTAIN HELP AND COMFORT
IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY.**

O Most Holy Infant Jesus, 'Thou who knewest the affliction of Thy beloved reputed Father St. Joseph, and how to console him at the appointed time, revealing to him by the mouth of the Archangel the mystery of Thy Divine Incarnation in the womb of the most holy Mary, send to me, I beseech Thee, in this time of my sore difficulty and affliction, the help and comfort of Thy grace, so that I may find a remedy for the evils which weigh down my soul and body.

This favour I likewise seek from Thee, O my beloved St. Joseph, beseeching thee to obtain it from the Infant Jesus, by that infinite joy which Thou didst feel at the angelic tidings, "That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost."

Five Glories to the Most Holy and loving Heart of the Infant Jesus.

An Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory, to the amiable Heart of St. Joseph.

OFFERING

**TO THE MOST HOLY INFANT, TO BE MADE THE
25TH DAY OF EVERY MONTH BY HEADS OF
FAMILIES.**

O my most adorable Infant Jesus, my King, my Father, and my Lord, I dedicate myself to Thee this day in Thine Honour, giving up to Thee my whole being, my soul, my body, my will, and the goods which Thou hast given me, and in short all that belongs to me; I beseech Thee to take the possession and absolute dominion of it all, as I desire no longer to live but in Thee, nor to possess anything in the world, except it be according to Thy will, permission, and divine appointment, so that henceforth I must look upon myself simply as an instrument in Thy hands, O most Holy Infant Jesus, to do whatsoever Thou desirest of me, with a simple heart.

I beg these graces of Thee, through the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin, Thy Mother and my Advocate, and of my Protector St. Joseph. Amen.

HYMN TO THE INFANT JESUS.

I.

Dear Little One ! how sweet Thou art,
Thine eyes how bright they shine,
So bright they almost seem to speak
When Mary's look meets Thine !

II.

How faint and feeble is Thy cry,
Like plaint of harmless dove,
When Thou dost murmur in Thy sleep
Of sorrow and of love.

III.

When Mary bids Thee sleep Thou sleep'st,
Thou wakest when she calls ;
Thou art content upon her lap,
Or in the rugged stalls.

IV.

Simplest of Babes ! with what a grace
Thou dost Thy Mother's will ;
Thine infant fashions well betray
The Godhead's hidden skill.

V.

When Joseph takes Thee in his arms,
 And smooths Thy little cheek,
 Thou lookest up into his face,
 So helpless and so meek.

VI.

Yes ! Thou art what Thou seem'st to be,
 A thing of smiles and tears ;
 Yet Thou art God, and heaven and earth
 Adore Thee with their fears.

ANOTHER HYMN TO THE INFANT JESUS.

I.

Jesus ! dear Babe ! those tiny hands,
 That play with Mary's hair,
 The weight of all the mighty world
 This very moment bear.

II.

While Thou art clasping Mary's neck
 In timid tight embrace,
 The boldest Seraphs veil themselves
 Before Thine infant face.

III.

When Mary hath appeased Thy thirst,
 And hushed Thy feeble cry,
 The hearts of men lie open still
 Before Thy slumbering eye.

IV.

Art Thou, weak Babe ! my very God ?
 O I must love Thee then,
 Love Thee, and yearn to spread Thy love
 Among forgetful men.

V.

O dear ! O wakeful-hearted Child !
 Sleep on, dear Jesus ! sleep ;
 For Thou must one day wake for me
 To suffer and to weep.

VI.

A Scourge, a Cross, a cruel Crown,
 Have I in store for Thee ;
 Yet why ? one little tear, O Lord !
 Ransom enough would be.

VII.

But no ! death is Thine own sweet will,
 The price decreed above ;
 Thou wilt do more than save our souls,
 For Thou wilt die for love.



THE PATRONAGE OF ST. JOSEPH.

I

Dear Husband of Mary ! dear Nurse of her Child !
 Life's ways are full weary, the desert is wild ;
 Bleak sands are all round us, no home can we see !
 Sweet Spouse of our Lady ! we lean upon thee.

II.

For thou to the pilgrim art Father and Guide,
 And Jesus and Mary felt safe by thy side ;

Ah ! blessed Saint Joseph ! how safe should I be,
Sweet Spouse of our Lady ! if thou wert with me !

III.

O blessed Saint Joseph ! how great was thy worth,
The one chosen shadow of God upon earth,
The Father of Jesus—ah ! then wilt thou be,
Sweet Spouse of our Lady ! a father to me ?

IV.

Thou hast not forgotten the long dreary road,
When Mary took turns with thee, bearing thy
God ;
Yet light was that burden, none lighter could be :
Sweet Spouse of our Lady ! O canst thou bear
me ?

V.

A cold, thankless heart, and a mean love of ease,
What weights, blessed Patron ! more galling than
these ?
My life, my past life, thy clear vision may see ;
Sweet Spouse of our Lady ! O canst thou love
me ?

VI.

O give me thy burden to bear for awhile ;
 Let me kiss His warm lips, and adore His sweet
 ' smile ;

With her Babe in her arms, surely Mary will be,
 Sweet Spouse of our Lady ! my pleader with thee.

VII.

When the treasures of God were unsheltered on
 earth ;

Safe keeping was found for them both in thy
 worth ;

O Father of Jesus ! be father to me,
 Sweet Spouse of our Lady ! and I will love thee.

VIII.

God chose thee for Jesus and Mary—wilt thou
 Forgive a poor exile for choosing thee now ?
 There is no Saint in Heaven I worship like thee,
 Sweet Spouse of our Lady ! O deign to love me !